

Whereas their Division I-A national championships in 1983, 1987, 1989, 1991, and 2001, make the University of Miami program among the most successful in college football history: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Senate—

(1) commends the University of Miami Hurricanes football team for winning the 2001 NCAA Division I-A collegiate football national championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the players, coaches, and support staff who were instrumental in helping the University of Miami win the 2001 NCAA Division I-A collegiate football national championship and invites them to the United States Capitol Building to be honored;

(3) requests that the President recognize the accomplishments and achievements of the 2001 University of Miami football team and invite them to Washington, D.C. for a White House ceremony for national championship teams; and

(4) directs the Secretary of the Senate to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to the University of Miami for appropriate display and to transmit an enrolled copy of the resolution to each coach and member of the 2001 NCAA Division I-A collegiate football national championship team.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 94—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH CARE COVERAGE IS OF THE UTMOST PRIORITY AND THAT A NATIONAL IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH CARE COVERAGE MONTH SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE THAT AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. CON. RES. 94

Whereas census estimates indicate that some 42,000,000 people in the United States are without health insurance coverage, many of whom are among the most vulnerable and can be financially devastated by serious illness, disease, or accident;

Whereas studies have shown that people with health insurance are healthier than those who are uninsured and receive care through emergency rooms or safety net health care services, because the insured are entitled to, and receive, more preventive care, follow-up care, and care for chronic conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure;

Whereas over 17,300,000 of the uninsured are employed but are not offered health insurance through their employers;

Whereas such employers are small business owners who are often unaware of the benefits of offering health insurance, including that such benefits are tax deductible, reduce employee turnover, and reduce employee sick days;

Whereas over 16,000,000 people in the United States, more than 1/3 of the uninsured, are in families where at least 1 member of the family has been offered employer based health care coverage but has declined coverage;

Whereas many individuals are eligible for public assistance programs such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program, known as SCHIP, and the medicaid program, but are not currently enrolled due primarily to lack

of outreach, education, and accessible enrollment processes;

Whereas studies have shown that many individuals and small businesses are unaware of the various options they have for obtaining affordable health care coverage;

Whereas surveys have shown that many individuals who cite expense as the reason for not purchasing insurance find insurance affordable once they are informed of the true cost of various options; and

Whereas education about health care coverage helps uninsured individuals and employers understand the critical value of health insurance as a preventive measure and the ways to keep their health insurance premiums manageable once they have health care coverage: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a National Importance of Health Care Coverage Month be established to—

(A) promote a multifaceted educational effort about the importance of health care coverage;

(B) increase awareness of the many available health care coverage options; and

(C) inform those eligible for public insurance programs on ways to access those programs; and

(2) the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, citizens, and businesses of the United States to conduct appropriate programs, fairs, ceremonies, and activities to promote this educational effort.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am submitting a resolution calling for the creation of "National Importance of Health Care Coverage Month" to call attention to the need for information about health care coverage options. I am joined in this effort by Senator COLLINS of Maine.

A person's physical and mental well-being are fundamental to his or her ability to learn, to work, and to contribute to our society. For healthy communities, the health of our citizens is vital. It is a fact that people who have health insurance have better health; forty-four million Americans, however, do not enjoy the protection of health care coverage. This resolution calls for the promotion of a multifaceted educational effort about the importance of health care coverage; to increase awareness of the many health care coverage options already available; and to inform those who are eligible for public insurance programs on ways to access those programs.

This resolution alone will not provide insurance to the millions of Americans who need it. However, it will draw much-needed attention to an issue that touches every citizen in every state.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with my colleague from Oregon in submitting this concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that health care coverage is of the utmost importance and that a National Importance of Health Care Coverage Month should be established to promote awareness and education about the importance of health insurance coverage.

One of my top priorities in the Senate has been to expand access to affordable health care for all Americans.

There still are far too many Americans without health insurance. An estimated 42 million Americans do not have health care coverage, including more than 150,000 people in Maine.

The simple fact is that people with health insurance are healthier than those who are uninsured. People without health insurance are less likely to seek care when they need it, and to forgo services such as periodic check-ups and preventive services. As a consequence, they are more likely to be hospitalized or require costly medical attention for conditions that could be preventable. Not only does this put the health of these individuals at greater risk, but it also puts additional pressures on our hospitals and emergency rooms, which already are financially challenged. Compared with people who have health coverage, uninsured adults are four times and uninsured children five times more likely to use the emergency room. The costs of care for these individuals are often absorbed by providers and passed on to the covered population through increased fees and insurance premiums.

This is one of the reasons that the cost of health insurance has soared in recent years. In Maine, employers, and in particular small employers, have faced premium increases of 15 to 30 percent or more. This is a remarkable contrast to the mid-to-late 1990s, when health insurance premiums rose less than 3 percent, if at all. Clearly we must do more to make health insurance more available and affordable.

Since most Americans get their health insurance through the workplace, it is a common assumption that people without health insurance are unemployed. The fact is, however, that most uninsured Americans are members of families with at least one full-time worker. As many as 82 percent of Americans who do not have health insurance are in a family with a worker.

In Maine, small business is not just a segment of the economy, it is the economy. I am therefore particularly concerned that uninsured, working Americans are most often employees of small businesses. Some 60 percent of uninsured workers are employed by small firms. Small businesses want to provide health insurance for their employees, but the cost is often just too high. This is why I have introduced legislation with my colleague from Louisiana, Senator LANDRIEU, to help small employers cope with rising costs. Our bill, the Access to Affordable Health Care Act, will provide new tax credits for small businesses to help make health insurance more affordable. It will encourage those small businesses that do not currently offer health insurance to do and will help businesses that do offer insurance to continue coverage even in the face of rising costs.

While costs are clearly an problem, knowledge should not be an additional barrier to health insurance access. Public education and awareness initiatives are also critical to the success of

our efforts to expand health coverage. Many small employers are not fully aware of the laws that have already been enacted by both States and the Federal Government to make this benefit more affordable. For example, in one recent survey, 57 percent of small employers did not know that they can deduct 100 percent of their health insurance premiums as a business expense. More than 60 percent did not know that insurers may not deny them health coverage even when the health status of their workers is poor. Small businesses clearly need better information about health insurance, which is why public awareness, outreach and education programs like the one this resolution is promoting are so important.

The same is true for our public programs. One of the first bills I cosponsored as a Senator was legislation to establish the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which provides insurance for the children of low-income parents who cannot afford health insurance, yet make too much money to qualify for Medicaid. This important program now provides affordable health insurance coverage to over two million children nationwide, including over 10,000 in Maine's Cub Care and expanded Medicaid program. Even so, hundreds of thousands of qualified children nationwide have yet to be enrolled in this program, many because their parents simply don't know that they are eligible for the assistance.

The resolution we are submitting today is simple. It expresses the sense of Congress that a National Importance of Health Care Coverage Month be established to promote a comprehensive educational effort about the importance of health care coverage; increase awareness of the available health care coverage options; and inform those eligible for public insurance programs about ways to access those programs. The resolution further calls on the President to issue a proclamation calling on the federal government, States, local governments and businesses in the United States to conduct appropriate programs and activities to promote this educational effort.

The resolution we are submitting today will assist in our efforts to expand access to affordable health care by helping small businesses, families and uninsured individuals learn more about health insurance and the various options which may already be available to them, and I urge all of our colleagues to join us as cosponsors.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2699. Mr. BUNNING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 622, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the adoption credit, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2700. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. INHOFE,

Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BURNS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. REID, Mr. MILLER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska, Mr. DODD, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BIDEN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 622, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2701. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. REID, Mr. BURNS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. CONRAD) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2698 submitted by Mr. Daschle and intended to be proposed to the bill (H.R. 622) supra.

SA 2702. Mr. ALLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 622, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2703. Mr. BAUCUS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 622, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2704. Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 622, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2705. Mr. SMITH, of Oregon (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. BURNS, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. SMITH, of New Hampshire) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2698 submitted by Mr. Daschle and intended to be proposed to the bill (H.R. 622) supra.

SA 2706. Mr. BOND (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2698 submitted by Mr. Daschle and intended to be proposed to the bill (H.R. 622) supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2707. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 622, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2708. Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. SANTORUM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 622, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2699. Mr. BUNNING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 622, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the adoption credit, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V add the following:

SEC. ____ . EXCLUSION FOR FOSTER CARE PAYMENTS TO APPLY TO PAYMENTS BY QUALIFIED PLACEMENT AGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The matter preceding subparagraph (B) of section 131(b)(1) (defining qualified foster care payment) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified foster care payment’ means any payment made pursuant to a foster care program of a State or political subdivision thereof—

“(A) which is paid by—

“(i) a State or political subdivision thereof, or

“(ii) a qualified foster care placement agency, and”.

(b) QUALIFIED FOSTER INDIVIDUALS TO INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS PLACED BY QUALIFIED PLACEMENT AGENCIES.—Subparagraph (B) of section 131(b)(2) (defining qualified foster individual) is amended to read as follows:

“(B) a qualified foster care placement agency.”

(c) QUALIFIED FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT AGENCY DEFINED.—Subsection (b) of section 131 is amended by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4) and by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) QUALIFIED FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT AGENCY.—The term ‘qualified foster care placement agency’ means any placement agency which is licensed or certified by—

“(A) a State or political subdivision thereof, or

“(B) an entity designated by a State or political subdivision thereof,

for the foster care program of such State or political subdivision to make foster care payments to providers of foster care.”

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2001.

SA 2700. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BURNS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. REID, Mr. MILLER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. DODD, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BIDEN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 622, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the adoption credit, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SPECIAL RULE FOR MEMBERS OF UNIFORMED SERVICES AND FOREIGN SERVICE IN DETERMINING EXCLUSION OF GAIN ON SALE OF PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 121(d) (relating to special rules) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(9) MEMBERS OF UNIFORMED SERVICES AND FOREIGN SERVICE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The running of the 5-year period described in subsection (a) shall be suspended with respect to an individual during any time that such individual or such individual's spouse is serving on qualified official extended duty as a member of a uniformed service or of the Foreign Service.

“(B) QUALIFIED OFFICIAL EXTENDED DUTY.—For purposes of this paragraph—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified official extended duty’ means any period of extended duty during which the member of a uniformed service or the Foreign Service is under a call or order compelling such duty at a duty station which is a least 50 miles from the property described in subparagraph (A) or compelling residence in Government furnished quarters while on such duty.

“(ii) EXTENDED DUTY.—The term ‘extended duty’ means any period of active duty pursuant to a call or order to such duty for a period in excess of 90 days or for an indefinite period.

“(C) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph—

“(i) UNIFORMED SERVICE.—The term ‘uniformed service’ has the meaning given such term by section 101(a)(5) of title 10, United States Code.